AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A multimedia message service apparatus, comprising:

first decision means that, when receiving a multimedia message that has been transmitted, references an international prefix table to decide whether or not the message is to be transmitted internationally to a forwarding destination, based on transmission destination information in said multimedia message;

second decision means that, if the first decision means decides that the message is to be transmitted to the forwarding destination, references a first routing table based on said transmission destination information to decide whether or not the forwarding destination supports number portability;

first acquisition means that, if the second decision means decides that the forwarding destination does not support number portability, acquires the domain name of the forwarding destination from said transmission destination information by referencing said first routing table;

second acquisition means that, if said second decision means decides that the forwarding destination does support number portability, acquires international identification information corresponding to said transmission destination information by inquiring registration means that registers subscriber data and acquires the domain name

of the forwarding destination by referencing a second routing table based on the international identification information that has thus been acquired; and

forwarding means that forwards said multimedia message to the forwarding destination of the domain name that has been acquired by said first acquisition means or said second acquisition means.

2. (Previously Presented) The multimedia message service apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first routing table comprises information including the country code and the domain name of each operator specified by the operator code and information as to whether or not number portability is supported and said second decision means decides whether or not the forwarding destination operator supports number portability by searching said first routing table using as keys the country code information and operator code information in said transmission destination information.

3. (Previously Presented) The multimedia message service apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first acquisition means acquires the domain name of the forwarding destination from country code information and operator code information in said transmission destination information.

4. (Previously Presented) The multimedia message service apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second routing table comprises domain name information for each of the operators specified by the country code information and operator information and said second acquisition means acquires the forwarding destination domain name by searching said second routing table using as keys information identifying the country and information identifying the operator in said international identification information.

5. (Previously Presented) A multimedia message service apparatus, comprising:

a first decision apparatus that, after receiving a multimedia message that has been transmitted, determines if the message is to be transmitted internationally to a forwarding destination based on transmission destination information in the multimedia message;

a second decision apparatus that, if the first decision apparatus determines that the message is to be transmitted internationally to the forwarding destination, references a first routing table based on the transmission destination information to determine if the forwarding destination supports number portability;

a first acquisition apparatus that, if the second decision apparatus determines that the forwarding destination does not support number portability, acquires information identifying the forwarding destination using the transmission destination information and the first routing table;

a second acquisition apparatus that, if the second decision apparatus determines that the forwarding destination does support number portability, acquires international identification information corresponding to the transmission destination information and acquires the information identifying the forwarding destination using the international identification information and a second routing table; and

a forwarding apparatus that forwards the multimedia message to the forwarding destination using the information identifying the forwarding destination.

6. (Previously Presented) The multimedia message service apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the information identifying the forwarding destination includes a domain name.

7. (Previously Presented) The multimedia message service apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the first routing table includes country code information and domain name information of at least one operator specified by an operator code and information as to whether or not number portability is supported by the forwarding destination.

8. (Previously Presented) The multimedia message service apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the second decision apparatus determines whether or not the forwarding destination supports number portability by searching the first routing table using country code information and operator code information in the transmission destination information.

9. (Previously Presented) The multimedia message service apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the first acquisition apparatus acquires the information identifying the forwarding destination using country code information and operator code information in the transmission destination information.

10. (Previously Presented) The multimedia message service apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the second routing table includes domain name information for each operator specified by country code information and operator code information.

11. (Previously Presented) The multimedia message service apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the second acquisition apparatus acquires the information identifying the forwarding destination by searching the second routing table using information identifying the country and information identifying the operator in the international identification information.

12. (Previously Presented) The multimedia message service apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the second acquisition apparatus acquires the international identification information by querying a register that registers subscriber data.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for servicing multimedia messages, comprising:

receiving a multimedia message that has been transmitted;

determining if the message is to be transmitted internationally to a forwarding destination based on transmission destination information in the multimedia message;

if it is determined that the message is to be transmitted internationally to the forwarding destination, referencing a first routing table based on the transmission destination information to determine if the forwarding destination supports number portability;

if it is determined that the forwarding destination does not support number portability, acquiring information identifying the forwarding destination using the transmission destination information and the first routing table;

if it is determined that the forwarding destination does support number portability, acquiring international identification information corresponding to the transmission destination information and acquiring the information identifying the forwarding destination using the international identification information and a second routing table; and

forwarding the multimedia message to the forwarding destination using the information of the forwarding destination or the international identification information.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the information identifying the forwarding destination includes a domain name.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the first routing table includes country code information and domain name information of at least one operator specified by an operator code and information as to whether or not number portability is supported by the forwarding destination.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein determining whether or not the forwarding destination supports number portability includes searching the first routing table using country code information and operator code information in the transmission destination information.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein acquiring information identifying the forwarding destination using the transmission destination information and the first routing table includes using country code information and operator code information in the transmission destination information.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the second routing table includes domain name information for each operator specified by country code information and operator code information.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein acquiring the information identifying the forwarding destination using the international identification information and the second routing table includes searching the second routing table using information identifying the country and information identifying the operator from the international identification information.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein acquiring the international identification information includes querying a register that registers subscriber data.